
NATIONAL RHODESIAN RIDGEBACK COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA CONSTITUTION

1) NAME

The name of the organisation shall be the 'National Rhodesian Ridgeback Council (Australia)' and shall be herein referred to as the 'NRRC'.

2) DEFINITIONS

“Member Club” – any specialist Rhodesian Ridgeback Club, whether incorporated or not, and duly recognized by and affiliated with the relevant state body and the Australian National Kennel Council Limited trading as Dogs Australia (herein after ANKC)

“Member Club Representative” or “Representative” – a person (one) duly elected under the constitution of a Member Club as being the Member Club’s delegate to the NRRC.

“Vote” - a show of hands or verbally affirmed should a representative not have access to such tools required to confirm a show of hands.

3) OBJECTS

The objects of the NRRC shall be:-

- a) To encourage and promote and protect, in every way, the quality of health, breeding, care, training and exhibition (including sports events) and rescue of the Rhodesian Ridgeback.
- b) to educate and encourage Exhibitors, Breeders and Judges to abide by the Standard for the Rhodesian Ridgeback as approved by the ANKC.
- c) To enable Member Clubs to take co-operative action on matters which such Clubs agree are of common interest and for their mutual benefit in the promotion and protection of the Rhodesian Ridgeback.
- d) To allocate the title of "National Rhodesian Ridgeback Specialty Championship Show" for use by Member Clubs, subject always to the approval of both State or Territory controlling bodies of the Member Club and the ANKC.
- e) To seek registration with the ANKC, and if recognised, agree to be bound by the rules and regulations and directions of the ANKC for the time being in force.

- f) Correspond with and become affiliated with overseas registered Rhodesian Ridgeback organisations for the purpose of the exchange of viewpoints on matters affecting the health and welfare of the Rhodesian Ridgeback.
- g) To collect, verify and publish information relating to the Rhodesian Ridgeback and the breeding and exhibition of Rhodesian Ridgebacks.
- h) To encourage Member Clubs to hold Exhibitions (conformation and sports) and other events as approved by and under the Rules and Regulations of their State or Territory body and the ANKC.
- i) To make by-laws, and to do other acts, matters and things as may be necessary or expedient to promote all or any of the objects of the NRRC.

4) POWERS

The NRRC shall have the power to: -

- a) Require a membership fee from Member Clubs to carry out any or all of the objectives of the NRRC.
- b) Invest funds of the NRRC, not immediately required, in such manner as the Member Clubs' representatives shall determine.
- c) Hold breed seminars, symposiums, conventions, and congresses through the sponsorship of the Member Clubs or through corporate sponsorship.
- d) Allocate the title "National Rhodesian Ridgeback Specialty Championship Show" on a three yearly basis to the various Member Clubs, subject always to the approval of both the State or Territory controlling body and the ANKC and unless otherwise decided by the NRRC. The allocation of the title "National Rhodesian Ridgeback Specialty Championship Show" shall be in alphabetical order between the various Member Clubs around Australia.
 - i) If a Member Club, who is entitled under an alphabetical allocation process is unable and/or unwilling to be allocated the title "National Rhodesian Ridgeback Specialty Championship Show", any one of the remaining Member Clubs may accept the title "National Rhodesian Ridgeback Specialty Championship Show".
 - ii) If more than one Affiliate expresses an interest to accept the title "National Rhodesian Ridgeback Specialty Championship Show", the remaining Member Club Representatives, not representing the Member Clubs who are contesting the title, will by majority vote at a Special General Meeting held for this purpose award the title.

The provisions of this clause 4) d) shall commence post the National to be hosted by Western Australia in 2025.

- e) The granting and use of the word 'National' must follow the Rules and Regulations of the ANKC and/or the National Breed Clubs Liaison Council.
- f) The judge to be contracted for a "National Rhodesian Ridgeback Specialty Championship Show" must be approved by the NRRC and the State or Territory controlling body. Approval by the NRRC shall not be unreasonably withheld and the NRRC shall be required to inform the relevant Member Club, in writing of the reason/s for such approval being withheld.
- g) Purchase, hire or lease, or otherwise provide and maintain all types of property for the carrying out of the objects of the NRRC.

- h) Conduct all such activities and perform all such actions as may be required for the purpose of carrying into effect its objectives.
- i) The NRRC shall not hold any Exhibition or Event. Such events shall only be conducted by the Member Clubs and each Member Club shall be wholly responsible for their own income and expenditure resulting from these Exhibitions or Events.
- j) This Constitution shall affect the right or authority of an individual Member Club to control or conduct its club business in a way usually followed by a specialist club.
- k) The NRRC shall not affect in any way the normal relationship between a Member Club and its State or Territory controlling body or the ANKC.
- l) Award "Register of Merit (ROM)" on such terms and conditions as may be determined from time to time.

5) MEMBERSHIP

- a) A Member Club (as defined) shall be eligible for membership of the NRRC upon payment of the fees prescribed in 4)a), however membership of the NRRC shall always be subject to the Member Club abiding by the rules and regulations of the relevant State or Territory Body and the ANKC.
- b) The NRRC reserves the right to suspend, temporarily or indefinitely a Member Club's membership of the NRRC if a Member Club is found to have violated the by the rules and regulations of the relevant State or Territory Body and/or the ANKC, resulting in such a Member Club's membership of the relevant State or Territory Body and/or the ANKC being suspended and/or terminated.
- c) The membership fee per Member Club shall be such amount as the NRRC shall from time to time determine, to be paid per annum, per affiliate and fees shall be deemed due and payable by 1st March each year.

6) DELEGATES AND NOMINEES

- a) Each of the Member Clubs shall annually appoint a Representative to the NRRC. Each Representative shall be a financial member of his/her Member Club and of the respective State or Territory controlling body. If for any reason it should become necessary, Member Clubs may appoint a substitute delegate who shall ipso facto be deemed to be a delegate for voting and all other purposes at a meeting of the NRRC.
- b) The NRRC respects the individual constitutions of each affiliate, however an inclusive process is recommended for the election of NRRC Representative/s.
- c) Each of the Member Clubs shall biennially nominate a NRRC President, who shall not be the same person as the Representative noted in 6a) above. The nominee/s shall be a financial member of his/her Member Club and of the respective State or Territory controlling body.
- d) Each of the Member Clubs shall biennially nominate a NRRC Secretary, who may be the same person as the Representative noted in 6a) above. The nominee/s shall be a financial member of his/her Member Club and of the respective State or Territory controlling body.
- e) A Member Club may elect to not nominate a NRRC President and/or NRRC Secretary, however nomination of a Representative is mandatory.

- f) Appointments of Member Club Representatives and nominations for NRRC President and/or NRRC Secretary shall be in writing to the Secretary at least 14 days before the NRRC Annual General Meeting.
- g) A member should not accept nomination for election to the position of President or Secretary unless that member has:
 - i) Adequate time to do justice to the position.
 - ii) Genuine interests in voluntary Committee work in general and the objectives of the NRRC
 - iii) Background knowledge appropriate to the NRRC and its objectives.

7) MEETINGS

- a) At meetings of the NRRC each Member Club shall have one vote subject to a delegate attending such meeting.
- b) The quorum for meetings shall be at least 75% of the number of Member Clubs.
- c) Member Clubs may bring any business before a meeting of the NRRC by giving 14 days' notice of its intention to the Secretary. The Secretary shall communicate in writing the agenda for a meeting to each of the Member Club at least 7 days prior to the date of the meeting.
- d) A non-member club may submit business to the NRRC for consideration by giving 14 days' notice of its intention to the Secretary. The Secretary shall communicate in writing the agenda for a meeting to each of the Member Clubs at least 7 days prior to the date of the meeting.
- e) Except with the unanimous consent of all Member Clubs, no resolution carried at a meeting of the NRRC shall be valid unless notice has been given in accordance with Clause 6c) or 6d).
- f) Notwithstanding the provisions of Clause 6(c) or 6(d) the Secretary shall at the direction of the President, or at the written request of two Member Clubs, submit any matter of urgency to the Member Clubs by email and the vote on any such matter shall be taken accordingly via email. The Secretary shall always ensure that a full record of all communications in such instances is available for scrutiny by any Member Club Representative.
- g) The NRRC shall manage its own affairs and hold meetings at such time and place (physical or virtual) as it deems necessary, however any meeting held virtually will be subject to each Member Club's Representative being able to actively participate and be heard.
- h) The President of the NRRC shall be the Chairperson of all meetings of the NRRC. Should he/she not be present within 15 minutes of the time appointed for the holding of the meeting, the Representatives shall elect a Chairperson from among their number. The delegate appointed Chairperson may record his/her own vote on any matter but shall not have a casting vote.
- i) Should the Secretary not be present within 15 minutes of the time appointed for the holding of the meeting, the Representatives shall elect a Deputy Secretary for that meeting from among their number. The delegate appointed Deputy Secretary may record his/her own vote on any matter.
- j) Every motion submitted to the meeting shall be decided by a Vote. Provided that each member club with a delegate present shall have the right to record one Vote. In the event of equality of Votes on any matter the Chairperson shall have a casting Vote.

8) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- a) The Annual General Meeting shall be held in the month of March or April of each year.
- b) At the annual general meeting, separate elections must be held for each of the following positions—
 - i) President
 - ii) Secretary / Treasurer
- c) If only one member is nominated for the position, the Chairperson of the meeting must declare the member elected to the position.
- d) If more than one member is nominated, a Vote must be held in accordance with rule 9.

9) VOTE

- a) If a Vote is required for the election for a position, the Chairperson of the meeting must appoint a member to act as returning officer to conduct the Vote, which would be the Secretary of the NRRC.
- b) The returning officer must not be a member nominated for the position.
- c) The Vote would be taken at the AGM.

10) PRESIDENT

- a) The President must be a club member of one of the affiliated Member Clubs and of the respective State or Territory controlling body.
- b) At the Annual General Meeting the Member Club Representatives shall elect a President from the biennial nominations received from each Member Club.
- c) The President may not be the same person as the Member Club Representative.
- d) The President shall formally be appointed for one term of 2 (two) consecutive years by the NRRC and shall hold office until midnight on the day following that of the Annual General Meeting at the end of the term.
- e) The President shall not be entitled to vote at any meetings of the Council.
- f) If votes are divided equally on a question, the President has a casting vote.
- g) The incumbent President shall not be eligible for another term unless no nominees have been nominated by the Member Clubs or until such time as a new nomination is received.
- h) If only one nomination for NRRC President is received from all the Member Clubs, the nominee shall by default be appointed as the NRRC President.

11) SECRETARY

- a) The Secretary must be a club member of one of the affiliated Member Clubs and of the respective State or Territory controlling body.
- b) At the Annual General Meeting the Member Club Representatives shall elect a Secretary from the nominations received from each Member Club.
- c) The Secretary may be the same person as the Member Club Representative.

- d) The Secretary shall formally be appointed for one term of 2 (two) consecutive years by the NRRC and shall hold office until midnight on the day following that of the Annual General Meeting at the end of the term.
- e) The Secretary shall be nominated and appointed on alternate AGM to the appointment of the President, this is to provide the continuity of knowledge during the transition of office bearers.
- f) The Secretary shall not be entitled to vote at any meetings of the Council, unless the Secretary is a duly elected Member Club Representative as well.
- g) The incumbent Secretary shall not be eligible for another term unless no nominees have been nominated by the Member Clubs.
- h) If only one nomination for NRRC Secretary is received from all the Member Clubs, the nominee shall by default be appointed as the NRRC Secretary.

12) DUTIES OF PRESIDENT

- a) The President shall act under the direction of the NRRC ensure the successful functioning of the NRRC and the attainment of its objectives.
- b) He/she shall attend all of the NRRC meetings, and any other meeting where his/her presence may be required, to keep order and ensure the meeting is conducted properly and act as Chairman.
- c) Generally, to perform all such duties as are usually performed by such officers in like positions.
- d) The President shall be responsible for handing over of all relevant documents and all open agenda items, to the incoming President within a period not exceeding 30 days of the Annual General Meeting where a change of President occurs.
- e) The President shall uphold the Rules of the NRRC and this involves knowing the Rules and this Constitution thoroughly.
- f) The President shall strive to continually improve the NRRC's policies, activities and administration.
- g) The President shall foster and environment of full co-operation with all members of the Committee.
- h) The President shall ensure the correct functioning of all Sub-Committees (if any).
- i) The President shall act, subject to any expressed or implied instructions, on behalf of the organisation and represent the NRRC with other organisations.
- j) The President shall perform the customary courtesies including but not limited to thanking office bearers and other helpers and making new affiliates welcome.
- k) The President should not become involved in activities which could undermine the impartiality of the office.
- l) The President shall be available for consultation by the Secretary and other office bearers as required.

13) DUTIES OF SECRETARY/TREASURER

- a) The Secretary shall act under the direction of the NRRC.
- b) He/she shall attend all of the NRRC meetings, and any other meeting where his/her presence may be required, to keep proper Minutes of such Meetings.
- c) Generally to perform all such duties as are usually performed by such officers in like positions.
- d) The Secretary shall be responsible for the accounting records, statutory and related records and property of the NRRC and further, shall ensure the handing over of the books, records and property to the incoming Secretary within a period not exceeding 30 days of the Annual General Meeting where a change of Secretary occurs.

- e) The Secretary shall be responsible for all monies received on behalf of the NRRC and shall pay all such sums into the bank account of the NRRC within 14 days of receipt. It shall be a further duty of the Secretary to keep proper books on the accounts of the NRRC.

14) DUTIES OF MEMBER CLUB REPRESENTATIVES

- a) At all times uphold the Objects of the NRRC.
- b) Ensure that their Member Club is appraised and informed of all NRRC matters.
- c) Distribute NRRC annual general meeting minutes and audited annual financial statements to Member Clubs, in the form in which it is received from the NRRC Secretary.
- d) He/she shall attend all of the NRRC meetings, and any other meeting where his/her presence may be required.
- e) Generally to perform all such duties as are usually performed by such officers in like positions.

15) HEADQUARTERS

- a) The headquarters of the NRRC shall be the residential address of the Secretary where the books, records and property of the NRRC shall be kept.

16) FINANCE

- a) A bank account in the name of the 'National Rhodesian Ridgeback Council' shall be opened with a recognised Australian bank and kept in the name of the National Rhodesian Ridgeback Council.
- b) All monies payable on behalf of the NRRC shall be paid by cheque drawn upon the bank account of the NRRC or be paid via electronic fund transfer using online banking. All cheques shall be signed by the Secretary and countersigned by the President or one NRRC delegate appointed for that purpose. Similarly, all payments via electronic fund transfer using online banking shall require 2 persons appointed for that purpose to initiate and approve the transaction.
- c) The financial year of the NRRC shall be 1st January to 31st December in each year.
- d) At the Annual General Meeting each year the NRRC shall appoint an auditor with accountancy experience. Such auditor shall hold office until the first meeting in the following year but shall be eligible for re-appointment.
- e) An audited statement of receipts and expenditure and balance sheet shall be forwarded to each Member Club within 7 days after the Annual General Meeting.

17) BY-LAWS

- a) Subject always to the Constitution, Representatives at a meeting may, by resolution passed by a majority of at least 75% of Representatives present and voting on this resolution, make by-laws and may from time to time amend such by-laws by variation, deletion or addition as they may think fit, in respect of:
- i) The granting of the title "National Rhodesian Ridgeback Specialty Championship Show"
 - ii) The appointment of the President
 - iii) The appointment of the Secretary
 - iv) Membership fees
 - v) "ROMS" (Register of Merit)
 - vi) Any matter the Representatives consider necessary to carry out the objects of the NRRC.

18) ALTERATION TO CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

The Constitution and the by-laws of the NRRC shall not be altered, waived, or amended except at a meeting of the Representatives at which at least 30 days' notice has been given to the Secretary of such amendment and the Secretary has given 14 days' notice to all Member Clubs. The amendment must be agreed upon by a majority of at least 75% of the Representatives present and voting on this resolution.

19) RESIGNATION

Any member club may at any time resign its membership by giving notice to the Secretary. Such resignation shall not free the club from liability to pay any subscription which is due and unpaid on the date of resignation. Should any club that has resigned seek re-admission as a member of the NRRC, such re-admission is to be voted upon at a meeting of the NRRC called in compliance with Clause 5(d) of the Constitution. A majority of at least 75% of the Representatives present and voting in person will be required to re-admit a member club.

20) PROPERTY/WINDING UP

No club or individual shall have any proprietary right or interest in any of the funds or property of the NRRC. Such property or funds shall be devoted to the promotion of the objects of the NRRC. However, in the event of the winding up of the NRRC, the property or funds shall be divided equally among the clubs which are members at the time of such winding up.

This Constitution was approved at a General Meeting of the National Rhodesian Ridgeback Council on 22 September 2023.